

## Central Florida Water Initiative



### Mulberry Adopts New Ordinance Based on Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup>

A new ordinance in the City of Mulberry, based on Florida Water Star<sup>SM</sup> (FWS) standards, is helping to ensure water needs are met in the booming Polk County area.

In partnership with the District, the City of Mulberry recently adopted an ordinance mandating water conservation compliance prior to receiving a certificate of occupancy for new residential and commercial properties.

The ordinance is based on FWS standards, a program implemented by the District for homes and commercial developments with strict water-efficiency standards for indoor fixtures and appliances, landscape design and irrigation systems.

To meet ordinance requirements, builders must achieve FWS certification or submit documentation verifying stringent water-efficiency requirements have been met. Currently, homebuilders can receive \$700 in rebates for each FWS-certified home.

Mulberry City Commissioner Rick Stradtman said it was important for the city to take this proactive step.

“We expect a lot of growth within the city limits in the next few years, and it’s important to conserve as many gallons as possible,” he said. “This issue is very important to me because we need to preserve one of our most precious resources.”

Polk County is part of the Central Florida Water Initiative, a collaborative water supply planning effort among the state’s three largest water management districts and other partners. The five-county region faces the challenge of how to meet the water needs of the growing region as the Upper Floridan Aquifer, the traditional source of water, is reaching its withdrawal limit.

The FWS program is just one of the tools being used in this supply planning process. To learn more about FWS [click here](#).



[sfwmd.gov](http://sfwmd.gov)



[watermatters.org](http://watermatters.org)



[www.sjrwmd.com](http://www.sjrwmd.com)

The CFWI encompasses five counties: Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole. The state’s water experts project that this region will need an additional 300 million gallons of water per day by 2035. Through the CFWI, three water management districts — South Florida, Southwest Florida and St. Johns River — are working collaboratively with other agencies and stakeholders to implement effective water resource planning, including water resource and supply development and management strategies to protect, conserve and restore our water resources. To learn more, please visit [cfwiwater.com](http://cfwiwater.com).